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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

folio

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Research may lead to improved fuel cell design

U of A team first to image working hydrogen fuel cell

By Richard Cairney

A University of Alberta research team has provided scientists with the first internal images throughout an operating hydrogen fuel cell, paving the way for design improvements and increased efficiency.

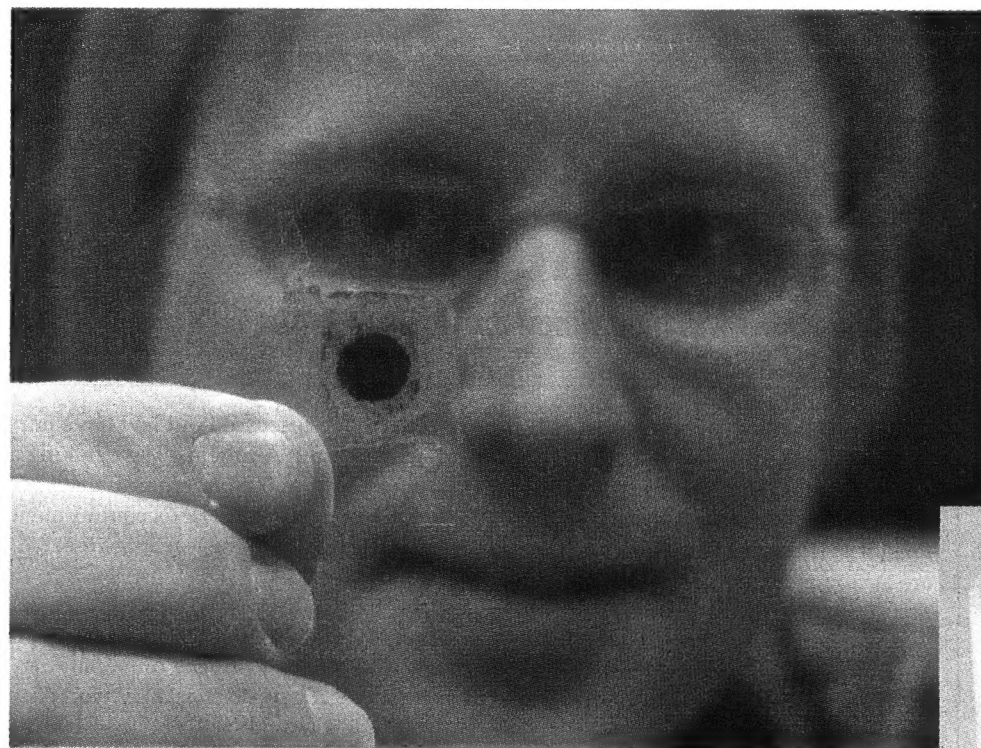
The team, led by Department of Chemistry professors Dr. Steven Bergens and Dr. Rod Wasylshen, Canada Research Chair in Physical Chemistry, produced images revealing how water behaves inside hydrogen fuel cells. Their preliminary findings appear in the *Journal of the American Chemistry Society*. The fuel cells are touted as an alternate-energy option to power everything from computers to houses and cars.

Although tremendous strides have been made in hydrogen fuel cell technology, including pilot programs using hydrogen-powered buses and automobiles, the technology relies on a certain amount of trial and error.

"This is the first time anybody has simultaneously observed the water in all parts of an operating fuel cell," Bergens said of the experiment. "It's interesting because you can have all the high-tech science you can dream of in a fuel cell, but form just one drop of water in the wrong place, and it's a bad day. This is an incredibly simple, but complicated problem."

Hydrogen fuel cells generate electricity through simple chemical reactions. Hydrogen molecules pumped into one side of a fuel cell react with platinum, breaking into constituent protons and electrons. The electrons leave the fuel cell via wire to power a computer or propel a car, before returning to the oxygen side of the fuel cell. The protons, on the other hand, pass through a membrane in the fuel cell and combine with the electrons and oxygen pumped into the other side of the cell, forming water.

A major problem in hydrogen fuel cell development lies in the creation of that water, the energy source's only byproduct. Problems arise when too much water is created, blocking tiny channels the hydro-



Dr. Steven Bergens holding a polymer electrolyte membrane (PEM) fuel cell. The cell was encased in plastic (inset) and water flow illustrated in MRI images (above right).

gen and oxygen travel along inside the fuel cells. Increasing the flow of oxygen is one possible solution, but there's a wrinkle – greater flow of oxygen (air) would cool the cell and dehydrate the membrane, which must remain moist in order for protons to pass through it.

"It's a crucial problem," said Bergens. "You can't let the membrane get too dry or the protons can't pass through it, and you can't let a drop of water form or it will stop oxygen and hydrogen from passing through the channels and block the catalysts. You need to strike a delicate balance."

To better understand that balance, the research team had a bright idea. "MRI observes protons in water, so why not run a fuel cell in an MRI magnet and then watch the water?" Bergens recalled.

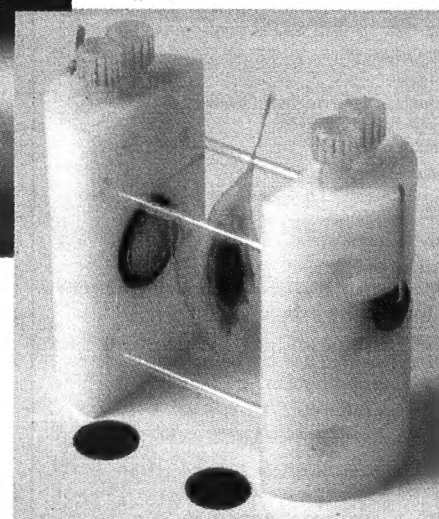
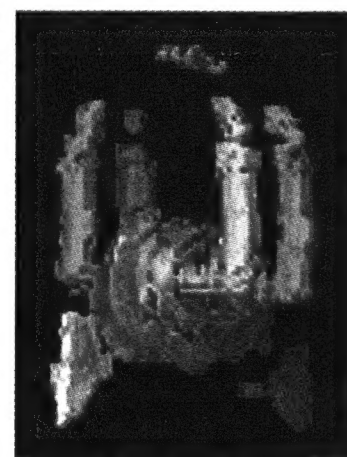
It turns out there were plenty of rea-

sons to be cautious, particularly the fact that the project would involve a fuel cell generating electricity in the strong magnetic field of the MRI spectrometer.

In using MRI to examine fuel cells, "everything that can go wrong does go wrong," according to Kirk Feindel, a graduate student of Wasylshen's who worked on the project with Bergens, graduate student Logan LaRocque, and Dieter Starke, a machinist in the department.

"Ideally you'd want a system with a homogenous magnetic field," Feindel said, explaining that a device with gold, platinum and an electrical current hardly meets those ideal conditions.

But the team managed to capture striking images of water within the fuel cell, illustrating how water builds up then recedes, along with the fuel cell's efficiency. By understanding what goes on in the



cell while it operates, "we can come up with better designs to avoid blockages," Bergens said.

"We've been getting e-mails from labs around the world that want to work on this," he added. The team has also been contacted by Ballard Power Systems. The Vancouver-based firm is regarded as a leader in fuel cell technology.

The idea now is to design an even smaller fuel cell which will, in turn, provide a clearer picture of what goes on inside working fuel cells. ■

NINT director takes delight in unique culture

No telling what new facility might produce

By Geoff McMaster

A "meeting of cultures" is what excites Dr. Nils Petersen most about his new working environment as the newly appointed director general of the National Institute for Nanotechnology (NINT).

On the one hand you have the auspices of the National Research Council (NRC), "an environment in which you have the ability to be strategic and directive about the research that's going on," said Petersen. "On the other hand you have the university, where the entire enterprise is driven by individual ingenuity."

When those two cultures come together there is no telling what can happen, says Petersen, who took up his position at the U of A-based NRC institute earlier this month. What he does know is that he'd like to be a part of whatever discoveries are generated in this frontier of science.

Formerly vice-president of research at the University of Western Ontario, Petersen jumped at a unique chance to use his administrative skills while continuing his research. The biochemist has a joint appointment in the U of A's Department of Chemistry and hopes to relocate much of the research program he left behind at Western, worth about \$400,000 in grants, to the U of A.

Petersen earned his first degree, a BSc in chemistry, at Western after moving to Canada from Denmark with his parents. He then completed a PhD at the California

Institute of Technology and post-doctoral studies at Washington University Medical School. In 1980 he ended up back at Western as a faculty member.

For much of the time since, he has been exploring how cells communicate with each other through intermolecular interactions in the membrane.

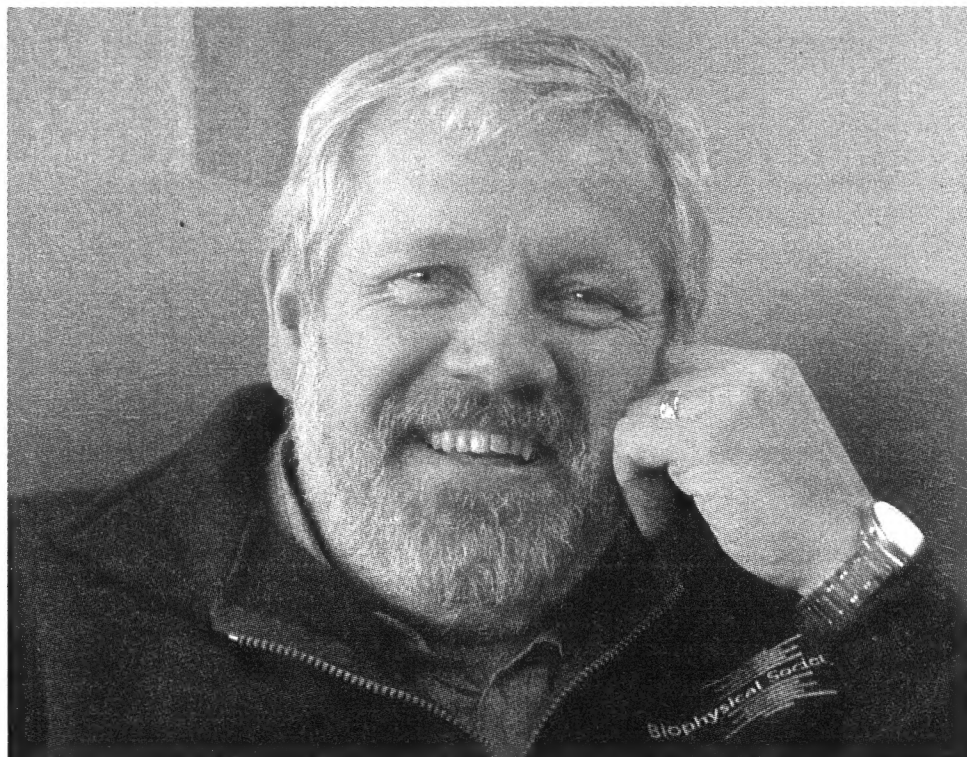
"Our contribution has been primarily in developing some very good quantitative imaging tools for looking at the single molecular level interactions," he said. Most recently he has been examining "lung surfactants," or the thin film that covers the inside of the lung. A better understanding of the chemical and physical properties of that film may one day help prevent types of lung trauma that can lead to death.

All of this research at the molecular level has demanded a firm understanding of the nano world, where nature's building blocks are reduced to the smallest-known scale and many of the familiar rules of physics are often turned on their head.

"From a research perspective, what I come with to this institute is an understanding of a lot of the tools that are being used (in nanotechnology) – the microscopy tools and analytical tools – and then a perspective on the interface between the chemical, the biological and the physical sides," said Petersen.

Beyond his own research, however, Petersen's biggest challenge will be in guiding NINT to the fulfillment of its promise, which is considerable. The institute was created in 2001, through a collaborative arrangement between the federal and provincial governments and the U of A. Its mandate is to become "one of the most technologically advanced research facilities in the world," involving researchers in physics, chemistry, engineering, biology, informatics, pharmacy and medicine.

NINT's long-term objective is to discover "design rules" for nanotechnology,



Geoff McMaster

New NINT director Dr. Nils Petersen hopes to transfer his own research projects to the U of A.

and develop platforms for building nanosystems and materials that can be constructed and programmed for a particular application. Petersen knows it will be his job to make sure NINT is placed "firmly and squarely as a landmark in Canada in nanotechnology," partly by bringing together researchers with industry.

So far things are still in "a very formative stage," he said. "We have established very strong connections from a research perspective with the chemistry and physics community at the university. And we're beginning to see stronger interactions now with engineering and the medical faculties as well."

Petersen is reluctant to speculate on the kind of breakthroughs nanotechnology might produce, especially in the short term.

As far as the average person is concerned, its impact is far more likely to be invisible and widespread, rather than emerging in the spectacular innovations that are the stuff of science fiction, he says.

"I suspect we'll actually see, without even noticing it, the enormous impact of nanotechnology going into pre-existing technologies, in very subtle but consistent ways... For example, your watch won't look different, but it will be driven by nanotechnology principles or will have some underlying improvements in efficiency."

NINT is temporarily housed in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Research Facility but will have a permanent, 15,000-square-foot home just north of the Mechanical Engineering building in about a year. ■

folio

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University community consulted on academic plan

Contributions will help shape university's future

By Richard Cairney

The University of Alberta has launched a series of consultations to help draft its academic plan. Dr. Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice President (Academic) and Vice President (Research) Dr. Gary Kachanoski are asking members of the university community to help develop an academic plan that will be in effect from 2007 – 2011.

But they don't want the exercise to build up false expectations. Both say the plan should be fiscally responsible and flexible enough to respond to opportunities for growth as they arise.

The academic plan "will be founded in fiscal reality so it allows units to plan for only those revenues we have a reasonable expectation of attaining," said Amrhein. "So it's a matter of 'show me the money' and then tell me how you're going to spend it."

But the plan will be revisited annually by a group called the Provost's Advisory Committee of Deans, to allow for budget-related adjustments.

"Let's say we get a 10-per-cent base budget catch-up. We can't reasonably assume that is going to happen now, but in two years, it might," said Amrhein, and the plan will be adjusted as financial conditions change.

Amrhein and Kachanoski also hope the plan brings teaching and research together in a way that provides undergraduate students with a unique learning experience.

"We want to provide students with the teaching and research rich curriculum that

many have discussed but few have implemented," said Amrhein. "We're taking a serious look at the undergraduate experience and making a serious commitment to bringing life to the teaching-research continuum."

The two hope that the consultation process will also identify themes in learning and research that the university can pursue. But beyond that, they won't say what they imagine will end up in the plan, because the details will come from faculty members, students and staff.

Under the consultation process, Kachanoski said, "everyone will see a way for them to move forward and join in. It is a process by which faculty can talk to chairs and chairs talk to deans and deans talk to central administration about what they want to accomplish."

The fact that the university's two academic vice presidents are working on the plan jointly makes a "philosophical statement," Kachanoski added, "that teaching and research are the core academic activities and absolutely integrated."

Amrhein and Kachanoski hope to have a version of the report prepared by the time the university's newly appointed president, Dr. Indira Samarasekera, takes office July 1. At that point, the new president will review the university's strategic initiatives. If changes are made to the university's main missions, vision and goals, the academic plan, which will still be a work in progress, could still be adapted

to match those new goals, through further consultation.

In any event, Amrhein and Kachanoski suspect the new president will want to meet with faculty and discuss the plan further.

"At this stage, the process we're putting in place is crucial given that we've got a new president coming in," said Kachanoski. "This allows a lot of conversations to occur, and the president is going to want to have these conversations."

Both are confident that the process will allow the U of A to leverage its strengths.

"We are uniquely poised to give real meaning to the teaching-research continuum concept," said Amrhein, who added that other key planning documents, such as the university's four-year strategic business plan, will flow out of its new academic plan.

Information about the plan, including a form allowing members of the university community to contribute to the consultation, is available online at www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/academicplankit/index.cfm. ■

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Redefining elections

Grassroots movements could change the weight your vote carries

By Lee Craig

Alberta's Legislature would be a very different place today if the Nov. 22 election had followed a system of proportional representation (PR).

Though such a change might not be favoured by the ruling political parties in Canada, a shift to some form of PR appears inevitable. Electoral reform websites, citizens' assemblies in British Columbia and Ontario, and action in governments across North America over campaign finance reform are all evidence that a change is happening, and that the voting public wants it that way.

"Electoral reform will happen because people are tired of their votes not meaning as much as they could," said Dr. J. Paul Johnston, a professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Alberta. "Momentum is growing for PR and other reforms. It can't be ignored."

Under majority rule, where seats are decided by the first-past-the-post (FPTP) system we now have in Canada, a ruling political party gains a certain advantage over other parties because the percentage of seats it wins in the Legislature or House of Commons is greater than the share of votes it wins — something called a manufactured majority.

"All electoral systems give the ruling parties some bonus. The ruling party's percentage share of seats won in the Legislature is greater than the share of votes that it wins. First-past-the-post systems produce the biggest bonus, and it is quite typically the case in Canada that the governing party has only got 38 to 40 per cent of the votes ... it is rule by a minority."

The difficulty with this situation, of course, is how undemocratic it is, said Johnston, who has taught at the U of A for the last 38 years. Canada is one of the last industrialized democracies in the world to elect governments by the FPTP system.

However, change is approaching. The B.C. Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform recommended in October that the province switch to a PR system of BC-STV (B.C. Single Transferable Vote). The Ontario provincial government announced last week that a citizens' assembly will decide whether a new voting system is needed in that province.

Other than the democracy deficit, Johnston said that an FPTP system also exacerbates problems caused by regionalism.

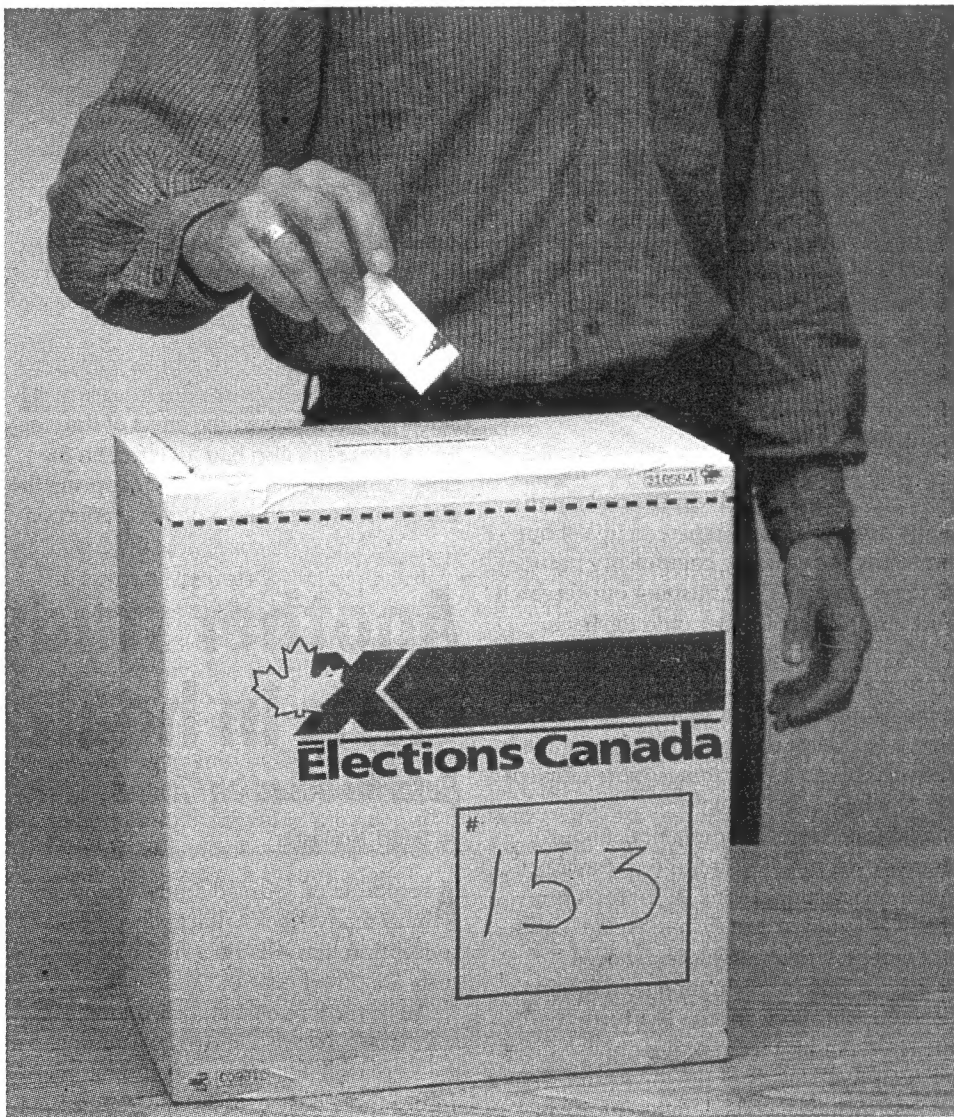
"Many of the problems of regionalism that we have in Canada are fought out between the parties ... For example, the federal Liberals have so few representatives in Alberta to make the case for the West in their own caucus."

For the opposition parties, their support gets regionally concentrated in FPTP, and they can't use the support they have efficiently, said Johnston.

"If you win a seat in Alberta with a 75 per cent majority ... it gives the impression that you have a lot of legitimacy, but surely that party, say the former federal Reform

"Electoral reform will happen because people are tired of their votes not meaning as much as they could. Momentum is growing for PR and other reforms. It can't be ignored."

— Dr. J. Paul Johnston



That one vote of yours could carry more clout under a different form of ballot counting. The first-past-the-post system commonly employed makes it possible that political parties earn more seats than the popular vote indicates they deserve. A citizens' committee in B.C. recently recommended that province change the way votes are counted and the Ontario government has struck a similar committee to examine election methods.

Party, would have loved to transfer some of those votes to Ontario where they could have helped."

Such regional effects were evident on a provincial scale in the Alberta election. The Alberta Alliance Party received more than 77,000 votes across the province (almost nine per cent of the popular vote), but it won just a single seat. In comparison, the PCs won a seat for every 6,838 votes they received. Political parties such as the NDP and the Greens received significant portions of the popular vote, but these votes do not translate into seats.

Under a PR system like the one in the Netherlands, said Johnston, the whole country serves as one big district, and a vote for a party counts wherever it is cast. There are many different forms of PR a country or province can adopt. The formulas to determine representation at the local level, deciding which candidate physically takes on the role of an elected representative, differ from one style of PR to another. In one style, for example, if a party earns 20 per cent of the popular vote, the party's top 20 vote-winners take office.

"People will see their votes are more effective," Johnston said, pointing to a voter turnout in Alberta that was at an all-time low of 44.5 per cent on November 22. "It won't be a matter of whether or not your party is the dominant party in a riding."

Dr. Steve Patten, also a political science

professor at the U of A, and Dr. Johnston both agree that the political culture in PR electoral systems can be less divisive among the major political parties, as well as more welcoming to smaller parties, something which is better for democracy.

"If we had proportional representation, the Greens probably would have

"If we had proportional representation, the Greens probably would have run more candidates because the challenge of finding candidates would have been easier if people knew there was a greater chance of actually getting elected."

— Dr. Steve Patten

run more candidates because the challenge of finding candidates would have been easier if people knew there was a greater chance of actually getting elected," said Patten. "That's one of the hidden costs of having the system we have ... potentially important minor parties like the Greens have trouble getting their organizations off the ground because everybody knows that the system will work against them, and that makes it hard to motivate workers and motivate potential candidates."

The system Alberta has now not only potentially alienates candidates and campaign workers, Patten thinks that it also alienates voters. Voters know the outcome, he said, because the system favours the winning party so much that everyone can predict the outcome.

"If there's a system of proportional representation, then the shift from the Conservatives getting just over 50 per cent to getting just under 50 per cent would be hugely important, because it would be the difference between a majority Conservative government and a minority Conservative

How Albertans might have voted

PR voting system would distribute seats differently

By Lee Craig

The Progressive Conservatives (PCs) won 73 per cent of the seats in the Legislature in Monday's provincial election with only 47 per cent of the popular vote. Under a system of PR, the distribution of seats would look very different.

If the seats were distributed proportionally according to the province-wide popular vote (under a system like that used in the Netherlands, for example), the legislative representation would have been the following: PC 39, Liberal 24, NDP 9, Alliance 7, Green 2, Social Credit 1, and Separation Party 1.

One of the results of this calculation, where the number of votes translates more closely into the number of seats, is that Alberta's PCs would not have a majority of seats in the Legislature and would face a minority or coalition government.

"The options facing Klein and the PCs for putting together a majority coalition in the Assembly would be to align with the small Alliance contingent, which would give them a comfortable majority with coalition partners sharing a right-wing perspective or with the two Greens and the Social Credit member. That's assuming they would not want to combine with the Liberals or New Democrats, inasmuch as they constitute the PCs' main opponents," said Dr. Paul Johnston. ■

government," said Patten.

Patten added that another good quality of a PR system is that incumbents have to work harder to stay in power.

"The Conservatives would have had to really work hard to make sure they had the majority. As it turned out they didn't have to work hard. As a matter of fact, they could run essentially a losing campaign and still have a majority, because they dropped from 62 to 47 per cent."

None of the other campaigns really gained that much, other than the Alliance, because they're starting from zero, said Patten. "The Conservatives still had a guarantee of a majority."

Johnston concluded that though supporters of FPTP believe governments gain legitimacy from the "majorities" this system gives them, PR systems actually do a better job of having elected representatives be accountable to the public. Larger oppositions also help.

"The premier, for example, would have to be a lot more cautious about governing," said Johnston. ■

Enough with the 'help' already!

How can we do our jobs when we're so busy learning to be more 'efficient'?

By Kevin D. Haggerty

My breaking point came when it dawned on me how much time it was going to take me to sufficiently master WebCT to simply upload student grades from Excel into the system. While undoubtedly a comparatively uncomplicated task, it was apparent that it would be much faster and easier to simply print off the grades and post them on a bulletin board.

This is but one small example of the much larger issue of the implications of the headlong rush by administrators to adopt computerized systems to rationalize various tasks. Some of the systems that I must now routinely negotiate include WebCT, Bear Tracks, the copyright system for course packages and the eTRAC System. As a member of the Research Ethics Board I have also had to learn how to use that unique reporting system. My APO is currently in the process of gently reminding me that I should be re-trained on the eTRAC system. I am afraid to even investigate the new procedures for submitting professional expenses for fear of how it might have 'improved' on what was once one of the simplest bureaucratic exercises in the university. It seems hardly worth mentioning the blood, sweat and tears shed by faculty forced to use the online SSHRC grant application system.

It would be mind-boggling to calculate the number of hours that faculty across the campus have spent familiarizing themselves with these myriad systems. While justified in the language of efficiency, the truth of the matter is that such systems do not represent a net gain in efficiency, but instead represent a re-positioning of efficiency and inefficiency across the university system. Ultimately, this entails a corresponding shift in the location of administrative workload.

Certainly, such systems can increase efficiencies for system administrators. The unstated cost is the remarkable increase in the workload of the front-end users who are required to spend interminable frustrating hours learning to make them work, dealing with their breakdowns, and then commencing the whole process again 18 months later when the latest 'updated'

version arrives on campus - often accompanied by a hefty price tag for both the system and the necessary training sessions.

Nobody planned for this to happen. Instead, it is the net result of a host of disconnected decisions made by various semi-isolated administrative offices, all in the hopes of making things work better for their particular unit. Consequently, little to no thought has been given to the cumulative weight of such developments and how faculty members are being required to continually shoulder these new administrative burdens.

Time is perhaps an academic's most precious commodity. We must make judicious decisions about where to invest our time. The increasingly compulsory nature of these systems risks pushing our research and writing ever further onto the back burner as we are forced to continually learn, re-learn and wrestle with such systems. Ultimately, most of these tools represent a net waste of my time, enlisting me in the service of making things more efficient for other people.

Beyond simply complaining about these developments, I offer two concrete preliminary suggestions. 1) In the future the evaluation of any system we are using or contemplating purchasing should involve a serious evaluation (and costing) of the implications for the productivity of the staff required to learn how to use these systems at all levels of the university. This should include a consideration of not just the formal training sessions but any extra time required to use the system compared to what preceded it, the time spent by faculty informally training other faculty, and the time spent by faculty simply muddling through on their own. 2.) The university should conduct a formal examination of the cumulative implications of these systems on the productivity of staff members. This is crucial, as the problem is not with any specific individual system, but with the cumulative effect of a series of systems that now eat up more and more of our time.

(Kevin D. Haggerty is a professor in the Department of Sociology.)

folio letters to the editor

Column missed mark

Editor, Folio:

My wife and I are native Edmontonians who immigrated to Madison, Wisconsin, 14 years ago. A financial pledge of support to the U of A initiated our subscription to Folio, and we read each edition with some degree of nostalgia. However, the guest column submitted by Stacy Lorenz, *Obsession with manliness follows old patterns in U.S. election*, (Folio, Nov. 12) is shallow tripe — even by student newspaper standards.

What manner of expertise allows Lorenz to speak about an American election with any degree of authority? Even

physical education instructors should acknowledge a level of myopia when commenting on an election that happened thousands of miles away from Camrose. Perhaps Lorenz has a subscription to Time magazine and reads every article.

Lorenz seems up to the task of mindless American bashing. In return might I be allowed to speculate that the present Canadian prime minister was chosen on the basis of birth right and language skills? I cannot imagine Martin was named prime minister based on the Alberta vote.

Tim Hensch BSc (UofA '83)
Madison, Wisconsin

New treatment improves odds for stroke patients

Ultrasonic waves used to monitor clots have physical effect

By Richard Cairney

Research on a new treatment for stroke patients is showing promising results and may lead to more personalized treatment.

"It's very exciting work - we've seen some good improvements," said Dr. Mahar Saqqur, a stroke neurologist in the University of Alberta's Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry. Saqqur is a co-author of a report on the new treatment, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The new treatment technique involves using ultrasound imaging to get a picture of blood clots blocking arteries in patients suffering ischemic stroke. Those patients were given an intravenous treatment of tissue plasminogen activator (rt-PA), a clot-buster drug.

It turned out that the ultrasonic waves used to provide doctors with images of the clots not only showed the effect of the clot-buster drug but also had an effect on the clots themselves. Saqqur said it appears the ultrasound waves had a physical effect on

the clots, allowing the clot-buster drug to penetrate them more deeply and effectively.

"The ultrasound probably improves the concentration of the tissue plasminogen activator at the clot," said Saqqur.

Other research Saqqur has conducted shows that patients for whom diagnostic ultrasound monitors did not indicate improvement of blood flow benefit from additional rt-PA treatment at the site of the clot.

Over a period of two years, the new procedure was performed on a total of 126 patients at four locations: the University of Texas-Houston Medical School, the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary and Barcelona University. The research was funded by the U.S. National Institute of Health.

"This study shows that it is safe and there is a trend for patient improvement," said Saqqur. "It now needs to be tested on a bigger population." ■

Another study refutes cost crisis in health care crisis

Reforms based on "incorrect assumptions"

By Geoff McMaster

A second U of A-based study to appear in as many weeks attacks the popular conception that Alberta's rising health care costs are out of control.

In a study published this month in *Longwood's Review*, Dr. Angus Thompson of the Department of Public Health Sciences argues there has been "no meaningful increase in health expenditures over the last quarter century," once the increase has been adjusted for population growth, inflation and the shift in the age distribution of Alberta's population. The "effective increase," said Thompson, is "well below one per cent per year."

"Consequently, the claims that health spending is out of control are untrue, and all of the recent panic-driven health care reforms are based on incorrect assumptions."

Earlier this month the Parkland Institute released a study that reached similar conclusions, claiming health costs have risen by only 1.6 per cent since 1992 and that as a percentage of Alberta's gross domestic product, spending has remained the same since 2003-04, at five per cent.

Thompson concedes in his study that overall government expenditures have increased by about 900 per cent in the past 27 years. After population growth, inflation and population aging were considered, however, the increase "proved to be a mere modest 65 per cent." Moreover, personal income per person also increased by 48.6 per cent over that period, leaving an effective increase in health spending at about 17.5 per cent, or two-thirds of one per cent per year.

Therefore government plans for cost containment and system reform, based on

the belief costs are spiraling, "are not justified," he said.

At the same time, out-of-pocket expenses for health care rose at double the rate of government expenditures, said Thompson, representing an offloading of costs from the government purse to individual citizens.

"This may have some benefits, because it allows personal control over cost-saving decisions, but too often it creates a situation where actual costs are more difficult to ascertain. Furthermore, it may actually increase health costs overall as services purchased on an individual basis are often more expensive than those negotiated by a public agency such as the government."

"The public misconception that expenses have gone up is thus partly true — except that much of this is coming from disposable income rather than from public accounts."

Thompson warned that by 2011, when the first wave of baby boomers begins reaching 65, the cost of health care will rise dramatically. But we should expect this and be ready for it.

"We should not, however, make the mistake of ascribing this to a health care system that is out of control. To the extent that an increase occurs, it will be a real cost that is due to a real need that will return to 'normal' levels once the baby boomer cohort has passed through the life course."

Given that real costs of health care have not increased significantly — and most Albertans have indicated they're willing to pay more in taxes for more effective health services — this research begs an important question, said Thompson: "Why are governments proceeding as if these two facts do not exist?" ■

folio letters to the editor

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Canada Research chairs hit 85, and counting

By Geoff McMaster

The University of Alberta can now add 16 new Canada Research Chairs to its roster, bringing the total to 85.

That total represents about \$94 million in funding, including funds from the Canada Foundation for Innovation brought by the chairs. The recently announced round of 16 brings with it about \$14.3 million.

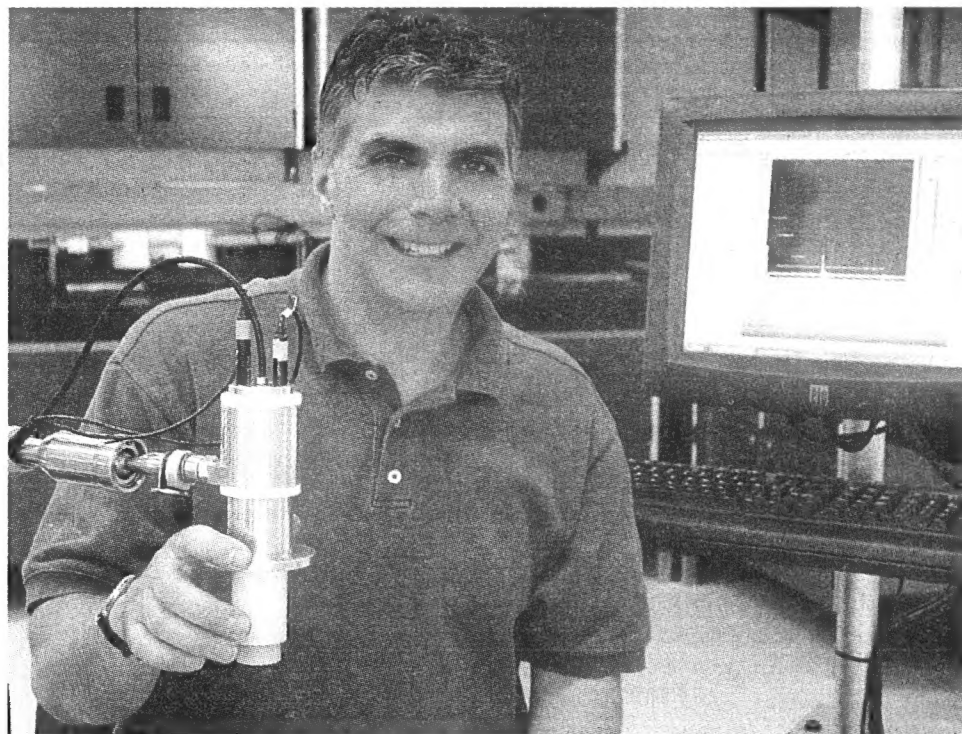
"This means we will have about 130 research chairs, amongst the highest number in Canada, once we finally fill all of them over the next two or three years," said Vice-President (Research) Gary Kachanoski.

The number of chairs allocated to an institution by the federal government is based on funding it receives from the three major research funding bodies – the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. The Canada Research Chair (CRC) program was established in 2000 with \$900 million to help Canada's universities "become world-class research centres in the global, knowledge-based economy."

Kachanoski said the U of A is viewed as a destination of choice for researchers. "We are using these (chairs) to attract outstanding people throughout the world... It shows this is the place people really do want to be," said Kachanoski.

One of the new chairs was awarded to a specialist in the Department of Physical Therapy investigating the causes of common back pain. Holding the CRC in Spinal Function, Dr. Gregory Kawchuk is developing ways to better diagnose back pain by monitoring spinal movement.

"What I'm trying to do is see how the back functions," he said. "Usually what we do when someone has back pain is take a picture, an MRI or an X-ray, and it really just shows us a static view of the anatomy. But we get tricked in that, because the anatomy



Dr. Gregory Kawchuk, Canada Research Chair in Spinal Function.

doesn't always correlate with pain."

The example he uses is that of a used car. "If you were going to buy a used car, you wouldn't take a picture of it to see if it worked well – you'd actually go and drive it. We're trying to go beyond just looking at pictures of the back and see if we can visualize how the back is actually working."

One technique Kawchuk is exploring measures back stiffness using ultrasound. "No one has been able to really measure that, but it could give us a window into how the back is actually working over the course of a day."

He says there are countless cases where a spinal problem revealed through a static picture, such as a herniated disk, will have very little to do with actual pain. The better the profile of an individual's back move-

ment, he says, the better the treatments for targeting specific problems.

"We get sucked into treating the anatomy," he said, rather than looking more deeply into function. The result is often surgery that doesn't help.

Working with the Common Spinal Disorders Research Group, Kawchuk says he will have the opportunity to research back pain with researchers of varying expertise. "No one's really made a breakthrough in this – something needs to be different. This group is unique in that it cuts across professional boundaries."

For the first time, he says, a group has been formed drawing on the three major professions that treat back pain – physical therapy represented by Dr. Michele Crites Battie, medicine by Dr. Tapio Videman and

chiropractic by Kawchuk.

"Doesn't it seem absurd that in this day and age (until now) you would never bring these three types of people together to solve a problem?"

Others who received Canada Research Chairs in the Nov 10 announcement are:

- Dr. Stephen L. Archer, Canada Research Chair in Translational Cardiovascular Research
- Dr. Janine M. Brodie, Canada Research Chair in Political Economy and Social Governance
- Dr. Jillian M. Buriak, Canada Research Chair in Inorganic and Nanoscale Materials
- Dr. Robert E. Campbell, Canada Research Chair in Bioanalytical Chemistry
- Dr. Heather J. Coleman, Canada Research Chair in Russian Imperial History
- Dr. Kerry S. Courneya, Canada Research Chair in Physical Activity and Cancer
- Dr. Mark J. Gierl, Canada Research Chair in Educational Measurement
- Dr. Kathy M. Hegadoren, Canada Research Chair in Stress-related Disorders in Women
- Dr. Wolfgang W. Jäger, Canada Research Chair in Cluster Science
- Dr. Steven M. Kuznicki, Canada Research Chair in Molecular Sieve Nanomaterials
- Dr. Ordan Lehmann, Canada Research Chair in Glaucoma Genetics
- Dr. Jingli Luo, Canada Research Chair in Alternative Fuel Cells
- Dr. Evangelos D. Michelakis, Canada Research Chair in Pulmonary Hypertension
- Dr. Stephen P. Norris, Canada Research Chair in Scientific Literacy and the Public Understanding of Science
- Dr. James R. Smiley, Canada Research Chair in Molecular Virology ■

Honorary degrees for diverse achievements

Sima Samar and Dick Harington awarded degrees

By Scott Lingley and Geoff McMaster

An internationally recognized advocate for human rights and one of the world's best-known paleontologists were awarded honorary degrees from the University of Alberta during its fall convocation Nov. 17.

Dr. Sima Samar received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws; Dr. Dick Harington was awarded an honorary degree in science – his fourth degree from the U of A.

Samar has been at the forefront of advocacy for human rights and education in Afghanistan for two decades. Her appointment as deputy prime minister and minister for women's affairs in the post-Taliban Afghan government was announced while she visited the U of A in December, 2001.

Samar is the founder and director of the Shuhada Organization, which administers a network of hospitals, clinics and schools serving Afghan women and children. She is currently the chair of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission.

"We have very strong opponents to the women's rights and human rights in Afghanistan. During the Emergency Loya Jirga in June 2002 (the Afghan Grand Council that appointed transitional president Hamid Karzai), the fundamentalists who are still very powerful in the country accused me of blasphemy and even tried to kill me," Samar told the convocation audience. "After this, I got a new job, which is more difficult and dangerous. But I have to say that I really am enjoying this work because I want to be the voice of those people who have not been able to raise their voices in their lives."

Samar said Afghanistan's recent open elections and its adoption of a new constitution are signs of progress, but that it's hard to protect the human rights of all people when their most basic needs are barely provided for.

Samar told the graduands that the skills they have acquired in pursuing their degrees are needed all over the world, but they must have the courage and the vision to share these gifts and help bring about a peaceful, prosperous global community.

"Just as I never would have envisioned the role that I have today, you also may find that your lives and careers take you in new and unexpected directions. I urge you to follow your hearts and to allow your hearts to include the world," Samar said. "Someone must take the risks if there is to be progress in the world. I urge you to be among the ones who take the risks for what you believe in. This is the only way that change will take place in our society."

Harington followed a hunch once and made an historic discovery while collecting vertebrate fossils in the northern Yukon. Harington heard an oft-told tale about a great unknown beast that had once emerged from a lakebed near the Porcupine River.

According to the legend, the beast wandered up the Whitestone River near the village of Old Crow one day and died along its banks.

In the summer of 1969, Harington was approaching the end of his field research season. He still had fuel left, and turned his riverboat upstream to retrace the giant creature's steps. Eventually the river

became impassable and he was forced to turn around.

On the way back he decided to stop at some bluffs he had missed on the first pass. Running down the river bank, Harington almost tripped over a giant jaw with teeth. Nearby, he found tusks, another jawbone and a huge skeleton. There was no doubt about it – he had discovered the remains of a woolly mammoth, one of the best specimens ever found.

There's no topping the drama of a moment like that. But Harington has since become known as much for the sheer number of vertebrate fossils he's collected as for their significance – some 40,000 of them. A retired paleobiologist with the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa, he is a world expert on the life and evolution of mammals that lived in the Arctic during the last ice age or Quaternary Period. The collection he's amassed is one of the finest anywhere.

"When I was in high school, I recall waking up early and hearing my parents discussing my future," he told an audience of students at convocation.

"They were concerned that I didn't seem to have any particular goals in mind. I was not very interested in high school, I only knew that I wanted to travel the world and, above all, have greater independence.

"So I started out in an arts program taking subjects as diverse as philosophy, zoology and classics, then switched to physical geography...I had a roommate who was in geology, and I found myself getting more interested in what he was



Dr. Dick Harington

doing than in what I was supposed to be doing."

Having found his niche, Harington switched to science, earning a BSc in physical geography and zoology from the U of A, an MSc from McGill and eventually a PhD in zoology and geology, specializing in vertebrate paleontology. ■

Nobody does it better

University recognizes its strongest supporters

By Richard Cairney

On Dec. 2, the University of Alberta will take time to honour its longest serving employees and it will once again recognize support staff who go above and beyond the call of duty to keep the university operating smoothly. This year's awards include a new category for Administrative Professional Officers.

The idea of handing out awards is simple, says Dr. Larry Beauchamp, the university's vice provost and associate vice president of human resources.

"We want to be able to celebrate, recognize and say thank you to outstanding members of the support staff," he said. "I think we have a lot of support staff that make extraordinary contributions to the university and this is an opportunity to thank them."

The long-term service awards and employee recognition awards will be handed out during the Celebration of Service ceremony Dec. 2 at the Myer Horowitz Theatre, from 2 - 6 p.m.

This year's recognition awards go to:

KATHLEEN HYMANYK

Imagine taking a job where members of the public who you work with are pretty nervous, or even frightened, by the prospect of working with you. It is something everyone involved in dentistry needs to deal with and by all accounts, Kathleen Hymanyk handles those issues, and everything else that comes her way, with aplomb.

Hymanyk works in the dental implant clinic as a registered dental assistant (II) with the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry's general practice residency program. There, she works with patients and dental students in a general practice setting specializing in implants – new permanent tooth replacements.

"It's kind of the new age of dentistry that's going on here," she said of the advanced level of work. "It's exciting working here because there is always something new in this world, new parts or developments – there is a lot to keep up with."

Just being nominated for the staff recognition award was a pleasant surprise, said Hymanyk. "I got an e-mail saying I was a finalist and couldn't believe it. When you think of how many people work on campus, getting an award like this is a real honour. I thought I was just doing my job," she said. "We've got a great group of people here. Everyone really looks out for each other."

RUTH BUTLER

Ruth Butler started working at the U of A 17 years ago, spending her first 11 years in temp services, working wherever she was needed most. It turns out the idea that every day was different appealed to Butler. She was asked to fill in as administrative assistant for the dean of the Faculty of Science in 1993 and hasn't looked back.

"It wasn't boring," Butler said. "There wasn't another position I'd been in where things changed all the time and what you put into it is what the position was and it let you go as far as you wanted to."

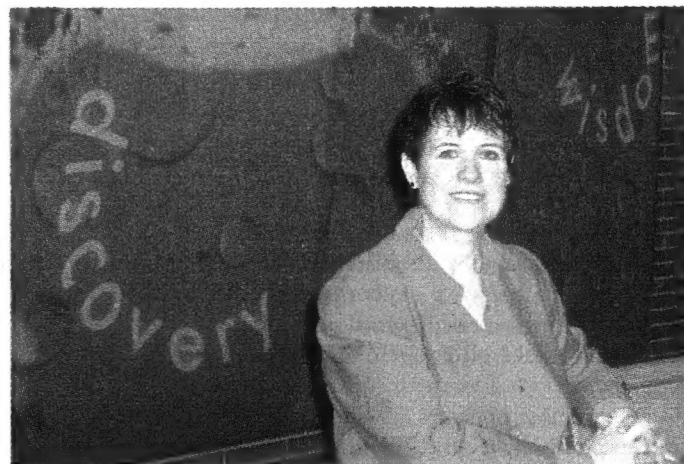
Her priority is helping the dean meet his goals. That involves much more than simply acting as a dam to control the flow of phone calls or paper that make it to the dean's desk, in being one step ahead of the dean, laying the groundwork for future initiatives.

Apparently, her work is appreciated. When Butler learned she'd been nominated for the Support Staff Recognition Award, she was overwhelmed.

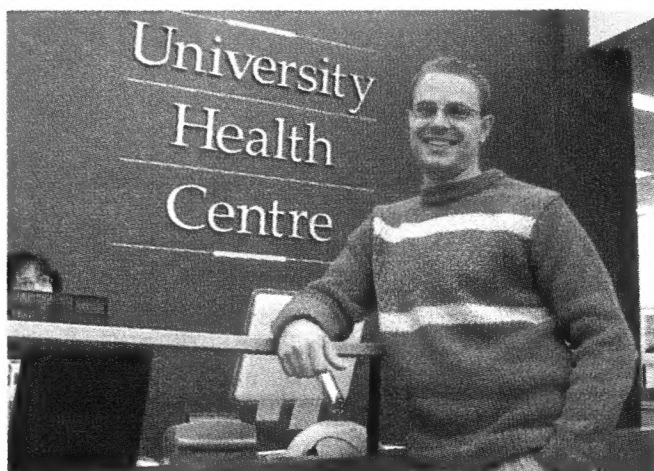
"I felt like I didn't need to win at all – that they would recognize me in that way made me feel really good."



Kathleen Hymanyk



Ruth Butler



Kevin Friese



Gerdt Klingbeil



Jim Kiddoo



Kelly Deis

GERDT KLINGBEIL

Most folks assume that if they had to pull a fire alarm, it would work. Gerdt Klingbeil's job is to make sure the thousands of alarms across campus function properly. It's no small task, but one that the 34-year U of A employee enjoys, because it requires a little detective work.

When he was asked to join the group of electricians who maintain the fire alarms 20 years ago, he was reluctant to accept.

"I didn't think it would appeal to me but I didn't have much training in it at the time," said Klingbeil. "But there is a lot of trouble-shooting involved and that does appeal to me."

Klingbeil is often on call, in case something goes awry. And when he is on the job, the alarms take priority over all else.

"There's a lot of pressure, sure. If an alarm's not working, you've got to get it repaired in a hurry. And if it's coffee time or your lunch break, you just keep on working."

Another thing about the job that appeals to Klingbeil is his co-workers. "They're all good here. I can't say anything bad about them."

It's obviously a case of mutual respect. "I'm honoured, very honoured, that my co-workers would consider me for an award like this," he said.

KEVIN FRIESE

Kevin Friese manages a staff of nine (out of a total staff of about 40) at the University Health Centre in the Students' Union Building, ensuring the clinic, which offers the university community access to eight general practitioners and four specialists, runs smoothly.

"We really try to promote a sense of team," he said. "We are a group of people

who are cross-trained to help out in each other's area – there is a real respect for the idea of trying to assist and help out where it is needed."

That kind of commitment has helped the centre in some demanding times, such as implementing a mass meningitis-inoculation program a few years back, and establishing protocols with the Capital Health Authority to deal with SARS patients last year.

The staff members who nominated Friese say that without him the centre would be "less efficient, less human and less harmonious." It's high praise that Friese feels should be spread around.

"There is a staff of about 40 here and we have a director who is really supportive," said Friese, an APO at the centre. "This award came as quite a surprise to me. When I found out about it I was sort of stunned."

JIM KIDD00

When Jim Kiddoo began working at the U of A he had no idea that he'd one day be teaching a class of fourth-year business students. Yet he wound up helping to teach a course in management information systems last year and will teach the course solo in January.

"I have no problem talking to 50 or 60 people," he said. "I've done seminars for 60 or 70 people before, so I was excited about the class – it felt natural."

Kiddoo instructs students on policy-level issues of information management.

"There is more on how will it affect a company – if I am managing this technology what do I need to know?" he said.

This is all on top of his full-time duties as senior network administrator in the School of Business, where he's been for

four of the five years he has worked at the U of A. The sure sign that he's doing a good job is that no one hears from him.

"People don't know what I do until something goes wrong . . . then they ask 'what happened?' and I go over it and their eyes gloss over and they go 'oh – that's what you do,'" he joked, adding that receiving the recognition award is humbling.

"You don't want to toot your own horn, so it was a nice surprise for me."

KELLY DEIS

When you listen to Kelly Deis' colleagues talk about her, it makes you want to go work with them. "We absolutely adore her," said Louisa Fricker of the Centre for Health Evidence. "She helps us do our best and helps us to grow. She makes us all look good."

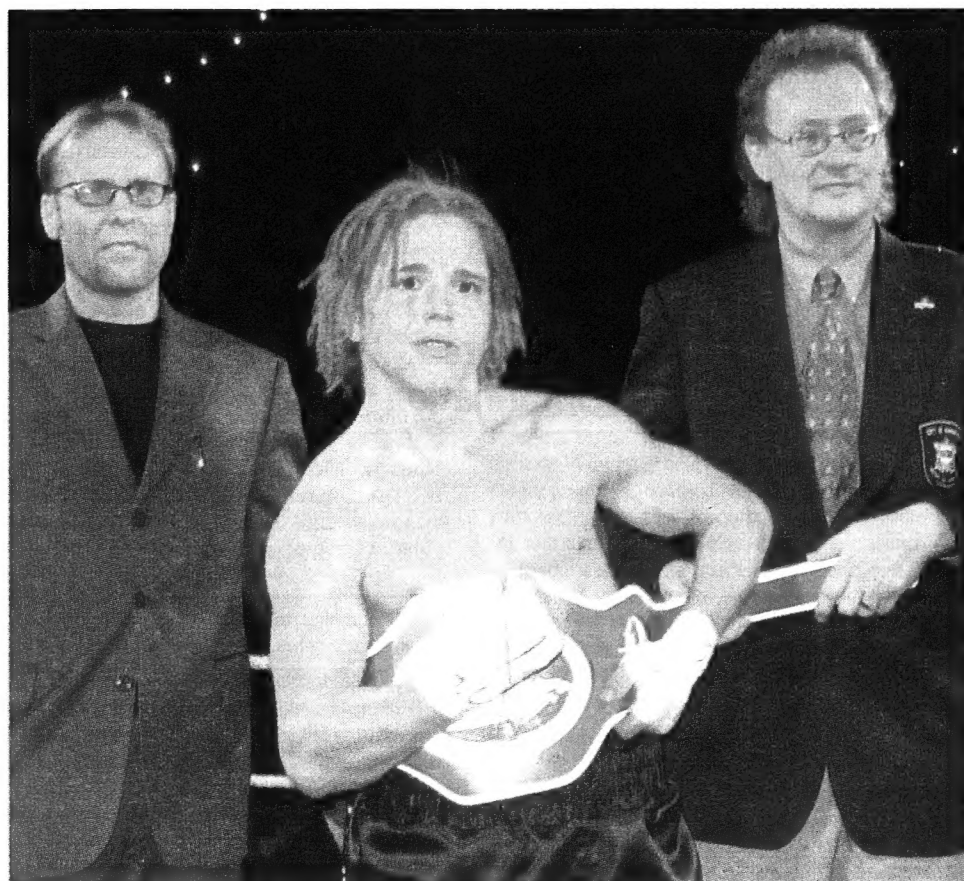
So how does someone come to be so admired by the people she supervises?

Fricker says Deis does it by being her staff's "biggest cheerleader." Deis says her staff are so talented "they make it easy to be a good role model and leader."

Deis, associate director of operations for the centre, was caught off guard by her nomination for an employee recognition award. And she's pleased APOs have been added to the annual recognition awards. "APOs do a lot to help the university meet its objectives and struggle with the day to day business of how to make things happen – how do we implement the visions of others."

"I have to say I didn't know they put my name in first of all, and that kind of annoyed me that they could keep something from me – because I thought I knew everything that was going on at our office. I feel an immense level of gratitude – it's really gratifying." ■

Submit talks and events to Cora Doucette by 3 p.m. Thursday one week prior to publication. **Folio Talks and Events listings will no longer accept submissions via fax, mail, e-mail or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in Folio and on ExpressNews at: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm>.**



Jason 'The Troll' Adams recently won the Canadian featherweight boxing title.

In this corner . . .

Plumber Jason 'The Troll' Adams wins national title

By Chris Boutet

At just a few inches north of five feet tall and a few pounds south of 130, you might think that U of A employee Jason "The Troll" Adams would be an easy guy to miss – but then again, being the featherweight boxing champion of Canada does tend to garner you some attention. And the Buddy Holly glasses and bright red dreadlocks kind of help a bit, too.

"I like to change my hair up for every fight; I don't change the style, but I always change at least the colour," said Adams, taking a short break from his work on the graveyard shift as an apprentice plumber for Facilities Management.

"I've had mohawks, I have dreads now, I had a checkerboard shaved into my head once, and as for colours, I've had blue hair, orange, purple, pink, green... it's my thing, I guess."

Not that Adams, 23, needs a gimmick to assert himself in the ring. With the Canadian featherweight championship and the WBC Continental Americas super bantamweight title already under his belt, and boasting a lifetime record of 11-4-1 with nine knockouts, Adams' unorthodox, brawling style has made him a feared opponent in boxing circles throughout the country.

Originally from Grande Prairie, Adams first got into boxing at the age of 10 while living with his mother in Red Deer. "I had a friend down at the gym who was into boxing, so I started going down with him and getting into it. It's a relatively cheap sport, as in there's not a lot of equipment to buy, which was good because I was raised by a single mom and we didn't have a lot of money," said Adams. "Boxing was pretty cheap for my mom; she was able to work bingos to pay for my gym fees and travel."

Adams' mother got a job in Edmonton two years later, and Adams continued his training here, eventually landing a spot on the Alberta provincial team, which meant the government now paid for his fees and

travel. By the age of 17, he had competed in every province but Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, and a lifelong passion was born.

"I like the discipline; I like that feeling right before you get in the ring," he said.

"I've had mohawks, I have dreads now, I had a checkerboard shaved into my head once, and as for colours, I've had blue hair, orange, purple, pink, green... it's my thing, I guess."

– Jason Adams

"I mean, to fight another guy, it's just me against the guy I'm about to fight, and there's nothing your coach or anybody can do to help you. It's a very individual sport, just me against that guy, putting my skills against his skills."

"And once I turned pro, too, there were a whole bunch of other things that got thrown into the pot," he added. "You get your gambling fix with it, too, now; it's like putting loonies in a VLT. If I lose a fight now, the value of my purse – well, every time you win a fight, the value of your purse,

your value as a boxer, goes up a bit. But as soon as I lose a fight, the bottom falls out and I have to start from zero all over again."

With that much on the line financially, it's unlikely that Adams will be giving up his night job anytime soon. And as for the near future, says Adams, he plans to stay in Edmonton and continue working towards his plumbing ticket, then maybe do some travelling to Australia.

"Well, (plumbing) is something to fall back on, because I know boxing can only take a guy so far. Sure, I'd love to see boxing take me to a point where I could do something really big and I wouldn't have to work, but I'm getting my ticket first," he said. "And Edmonton's great; I mean, Canada's not a big boxing country compared to the States or Australia or England, but in Edmonton we have the second-best boxing scene in the country, behind Montreal."

"It's still almost like an underground scene here, though. When a promoter says he's going to put on a show, you don't really hear about it in the papers; it's all about football or hockey. But we're still a pretty big fight town." ■

UNTIL DEC 10 2004

Small is Big: 70 Years of Extension Fine Arts Works by over 30 former instructors, staff and students of the Faculty of Extension's Fine Arts Program including Henry Glyde, J.B. Taylor, Douglas Barry, Harry Savage, Harry Wohlfarth, Alfred Schmidt and Ihor Dmytruk. We acknowledge and thank the Department of Museums and Collections Services, University of Alberta, and the Collection Management Unit of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, for their assistance with this exhibition. Extension Centre Gallery, 2nd Floor, University Extension Centre, 8303-112 Street.

NOV 26 2004

Department of Biological Sciences Evie Merrill with the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Alberta is giving a seminar on "Effects of mercury on adult loon foraging and chick survival: direct or indirect effects?" at 12:00 noon in M-145 of the Biological Sciences Building. Ecology Seminar Series, Part of the Biology 631 Seminar Series.

Antimicrobial peptides and neuropeptides: structure, mechanism and synthesis of stable analogs Speaker: Dr. John C. Vederas, Department of Chemistry, U of A. 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. 207 HMRC.

Department of Biological Sciences Martin Somerville with Medical Genetics at the University of Alberta is presenting a seminar on "Genomic Rearrangements: Sub-microscopic Chromosomal Changes and Their Clinical Consequences," at 3:30 p.m. in M-149 of the Biological Sciences Building. Department of Biological Sciences, Molecular and Biology and Genetics Research Group as well as part of the Genetics 605 Seminar Series.

Philosophy Department Professor Kent Peacock, Department of Philosophy, University of Lethbridge, will be speaking on "Quantum Information and Landauer's Principle." 3:30 p.m. Humanities Centre 4-29.

Biological Sciences Departmental Seminar The Department of Biological Sciences welcomes Dr. Terry Pearson, Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, University of Victoria, as he presents "Genetic modification of tsetse for control of African sleeping sickness." Dr. Declan Ali hosts this event on behalf of the Physiology & Cell Biology RIG. Refreshments served at 3:45. Lecture at 4:00 p.m. ETLE 1-007 Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex.

Campus Security vs. Lister Center fundraiser hockey game Campus Security Services is putting out a hockey challenge to Lister Center. The winner has bragging rights, but the real winner will be the Campus Food Bank which receives all money/food donations raised at the event. Admission is \$2 at the door. Bring your non-perishable food donations as well. 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Clare Drake Arena.

NOV 28 2004

Cuba Hurricane Benefit Concert by Cuban Classical Pianist, Jorge Luis Prat Jorge Luis Prat is Artistic Director of the Havana Symphony Orchestra and a renowned classical pianist with a special interest in Cuban and South American, as well as European classics. Mr. Prat is touring Canada to benefit the reconstruction in Cuba after two devastating hurricanes caused \$1 billion damage. The proceeds will go to help reconstruction. Suggested donation at the door is \$20 (no credit cards). To reserve admission call 488-0942 and leave name and telephone number and number of tickets required. 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Convocation Hall.

NOV 29 AND NOV 30 2004

Cameron Library Craft Sale Craft Sale. Free Admission/door prizes. 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. both Nov 29 and Nov 30. Professors Emeriti Reading Rm. 3-03 Cameron Library.

NOV 29 2004

Department of Biological Sciences Jeff Jianguo Xia, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta is presenting a seminar on "Cross-species sequence/structure comparison to derive immune function." 11:00 a.m. M-137, Biological Sciences Building.

Listening for Different Stories: Life Stories and their Aftermaths Julie Cruikshank, Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, University of British Columbia. This presentation reflects on life stories recorded with three Yukon elders, Angela Sidney, Annie Ned and Kitty Smith, during the 1970s and 1980s. The content of oral sources depends largely on what goes into the discussions, the dialogue, and the personal relationship in which it is communicated. Yet oral traditions

have social histories and acquire new meanings in situations where they are heard. Inevitably, accounts related and recorded during one time period raise different questions a generation later. My talk follows from Mrs. Ned's advice to "listen for different stories," and discusses the afterlives of life stories in contemporary local discussions about history and environment. Julie Cruikshank is the author of several books and scholarly articles including *The Social Life of Stories: Narrative and Knowledge in Northern Canada*, *Reading Voices: Dan Dhá Ts'edeninth'é*, and *Life Lived Like a Story: Life Stories of Three Yukon Native Elders*. 3:30 p.m. HC L-3.

NOV 30 2004

Health Ethics Seminars/Grand Rounds AHFMR Visiting Speaker Dr. Eric Blyth, Professor of Social Work, University of Huddersfield, England will present "Is Don Anonymity in Donor-Assisted Conception Compatible with the Well-Being of Children?" 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Classroom F (2J4.02) Walter MacKenzie Centre.

Vision Without a Brain: Visual Control of Eye Size by the Chick's Retina William K. Stell, Ph.D., M.D. from the Departments of Cell Biology & Anatomy, and Surgery/Division of Ophthalmology is presenting a seminar on "Vision Without a Brain: Visual Control of Eye Size by the Chick's Retina" at 4:00 p.m. in M-145 Biological Sciences Building.

DEC 01 2004

PHS Grand Rounds Dr Robert Coppock, Toxicologist "Of Cows, Food and People." 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Room 2-117, Clinical Sciences Building.

DEC 02 2004

Lunch by the Books: "How should Alberta cope with Provincial Government Surpluses?" "How should Alberta cope with Provincial Government surpluses?" will be presented by Dr. Melville McMillan, a professor in the Department of Economics. Participants are welcome to bring their lunch to the sessions, which will take place Thursdays between 12:10 and 12:50 p.m. 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Stanley A. Milner Library, Centre for Reading and the Arts, main floor.

Lecture on Ukraine Tanya Narozhna, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science, University of Alberta, will give a lecture on state, civil society and Western aid agencies in Ukraine. 3:30 p.m. Heritage Lounge, Athabasca Hall.

Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation Public Forum: As part of the review process for the Dean of Physical Education and Recreation, Dean Michael Mahon will make a public presentation outlining his vision for the Faculty for the next five years. 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. E-120 Van Vliet Centre.

DEC 02 2004 TO DEC 11 2004

Moving Pictures by Sharon Pollock Studio Theatre is thrilled to feature Sharon Pollock, one of Canada's most distinguished playwrights, treading the boards alongside the emerging talents of our BFA actors in her own play. Pollock's *Moving Pictures* sketches with bold strokes a portrait of the silent film star Nell Shipman – an artist whose thirst for creative independence could not be quenched within the confines of the movie studio system. 8:00 p.m. Timms Centre for the Arts.

DEC 03 2004

Department of Biological Sciences Bill Tonn with the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Alberta is giving a seminar on "Winterkill cascade: indirect effects of a natural disturbance on littoral communities in boreal lakes" at 12:00 noon in M-145 of the Biological Sciences Building. Ecology Seminar Series, Part of the Biology 631 Seminar Series.

The Prader-Willi Syndrome Proteins Necdin and Magel2 in Neuronal Axonal Outgrowth Rachel Weverick with Medical Genetics at the University of Alberta is giving a seminar on "The Prader-Willi Syndrome Proteins Necdin and Magel2 in Neuronal Axonal Outgrowth." Faculty of Science, Department of Biological Sciences, Molecular Biology and Genetics Group and Genetics 605 students seminar. 3:30 p.m. M-149 Biological Sciences Building.

DEC 04 2004

Lies, white lies, and Santa Claus Our Philosophers' Cafes offer you the opportunity to hear one of our U of A scholars speak on a topic; participants are then encouraged to converse freely and openly about issues arising, as presenters become the catalyst and resource for ensuing discussions. Our cafes are always informative and live-

ly, and often deeply entertaining. Topic: Lies, white lies, and Santa Claus with Dr. Jennifer Welchman, an associate professor in the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts. 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Nina's Restaurant, 10139 - 124 Street.

DEC 05 2004

Luminaria (A Candle Light Event) Don't miss this unique opportunity to enjoy winter at the Garden and to appreciate the beauty and peacefulness of the Kurimoto Japanese Garden. Join us in a stroll of the candlelight pathways, sip on hot apple cider and listen to story tellers as you warm up around the firepits. This truly is a spectacular pre-Christmas event for the entire family. A one-of-a-kind event for the Christmas season! 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Devonian Botanic Garden (25 minutes South West of West Edmonton Mall or 5 KM North of the Town of Devon on Hwy. 60).

DEC 06 2004

AHFMR Visiting Lecturer Paul A. Watkins,

M.D., Ph.D. Professor of Neurology Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine Title of Talk: "Bubblegum" in the brain (and other tales of fatty acid activation). 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. 5-10 Medical Sciences Building.

2005 Merck Frosst Lecture 2005 Merck Frosst Lecture presented by Professor Steven C. Zimmerman, William H. and Janet G. Lycan Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois. Title: "Supramolecular Polymer Chemistry: Dendrimers and Related Structures." 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. V-107 Physics Wing.

PhD Thesis Defence Mr. Oleh Petriv Title of Talk: "Characterization of Peroxisome Biogenesis and Function in Caenorhabditis elegans." Noon - 1:00 p.m. 5-10 Medical Sciences Building.

DEC 07 2004

Nutrition and Metabolism Research Seminars Jim Kaput PhD, Senior Molecular Biologist, Centre of Excellence in Nutritional Genomics, University of California at Davis, is giving a seminar entitled:

Decoding the pyramid: A systems biology approach to nutrigenomics, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. 2-07 Heritage Medical Research Centre.

DEC 08 2004

PHS Grand Rounds Dr Steve E Hrudehy, Professor Department of Public Health Sciences "What Consumers Should Know about their Drinking Water Supply and a Few Reasons Why." 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Room 2-117, Clinical Sciences Building.

DEC 10 2004

Biological Sciences Departmental Seminar The Department of Biological Sciences welcomes Dr. Bill Saxton, Department of Biology, Indiana University, as he presents "Special Delivery Mechanisms in Polarized Cells: Microtubules and Motors in Oocytes and Neurons". 4:00 p.m. Dr. Shelagh Campbell hosts this event on behalf of the Molecular Biology & Genetics RIG. Refreshments served at 3:45.

positions

The records arising from this competition will be managed in accordance with provisions of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP). The University of Alberta hires on the basis of merit. We are committed to the principle of equity of employment. We welcome diversity and encourage applications from all qualified women and men, including persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities, and Aboriginal persons. With regard to teaching positions: All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. For complete U of A job listings visit www.hrs.ualberta.ca

DIRECTEUR/DIRECTRICE DE L'ADMINISTRATION ACADEMIQUE

La Faculté Saint-Jean de la University of Alberta est à la recherche d'un(e) professionnel(le) de l'administration pour combler le poste de directeur/directrice de l'administration académique. Cette personne répondra directement au doyen de la Faculté Saint-Jean. Elle devra assumer le leadership relié à la gestion des affaires académiques, à l'enseignement, à la gestion de l'information et aux activités financières pertinentes à l'administration académique de la Faculté. La personne détentrice de ce poste fera partie de l'équipe de leadership et aura la responsabilité d'assurer un fonctionnement efficace et compétent de l'administration académique.

Le directeur/la directrice fera office de consultant(e) stratégique auprès du doyen et de la vice-doyenne en tout ce qui a trait aux programmes universitaires, aux inscriptions, à l'annuaire, aux horaires, aux examens et à la gestion des inscriptions afin d'appuyer les stratégies à court terme et à long terme de la Faculté. Le directeur/la directrice gère la dotation en personnel académique temporaire, y compris le recrutement, les entrevues et la sélection du personnel enseignant, ainsi que les contrats, l'orientation, le mentorat continu, les processus d'évaluation du rendement, les promotions, les reclassifications, les transferts ou les mises à pied. Il ou elle dirige la gestion du changement au moyen d'évaluation des besoins et des problèmes, et identifie les occasions d'améliorer le service à partir de nouveaux systèmes administratifs et d'une utilisation optimale des ressources. Ce poste assure la liaison avec d'autres services de l'université y compris les cadres supérieurs, Academic Staff Administration, Human Resources, Financial Services, Office of the Registrar and Student Awards, et d'autres facultés et départements.

Exigences : un diplôme d'études de 1er cycle en plus d'antécédents financiers et des capacités manifestes en gestion des ressources humaines; un cheminement d'au moins trois ans en gestion de niveau supérieur; des habiletés de haut niveau en communication orale et écrite en français et en anglais; une excellente connaissance des politiques et des buts académiques et administratifs de la University of Alberta; une connaissance du système informatique d'administration des étudiants de la University of Alberta; une capacité marquée pour la médiation des conflits et le développement des stratégies pouvant répondre aux besoins de multiples parties prenantes dans une grande organisation.

Ce poste administratif temporaire est d'une durée de 14 mois. Le salaire tiendra compte des qualifications et de l'expérience. Veuillez envoyer toute lettre de demande d'emploi, ainsi qu'un curriculum vitae et le nom et les coordonnées de trois répondants, à :

Marc C. Arnal, Ph. D.
Doyen
Faculté Saint-Jean
University of Alberta
8406, rue Marie-Anne Gaboury (91 St.)
Edmonton AB T6C 4G9
Date limite: le 8 décembre 2004
www.fsj.ualberta.ca

DIRECTOR ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION

Faculté Saint-Jean, University of Alberta, is seeking an administrative professional to serve as director, academic administration. Reporting to the dean, Faculté Saint-Jean, the director is responsible for providing leadership with respect to managing the academic affairs, instruction/teaching, informa-

tion management and financial activities relating to academic administration for the Faculté. The position is a member of the leadership team and is accountable for the effective and efficient operations of academic administration.

The director provides strategic advice to the dean and associate dean relative to all new and existing academic programs, registrations, calendaring, examinations and timetabling, and enrolment management to support the Faculté's short- and long-term strategies. The director manages academic administration staffing issues, including recruitment, interviewing and selection of academic staff, contracts, orientation, ongoing mentoring, performance evaluation processes, promotion, reclassification, transfer or termination. S/he directs change management activities through assessment of needs and problems, and identifies opportunities for improving service through new administrative systems and optimal use of resources. This position liaises with other university units including senior administration, Academic Staff Administration, Human Resources, Financial Services, Office of the Registrar and Student Awards, and other faculties and departments.

Requirements: an undergraduate degree complemented by a financial background and demonstrated ability in human resource management; at least three years of progressively responsible senior management experience; superior oral and written communication skills in French and English; extensive knowledge of University of Alberta policies, procedures, and academic and administrative goals; experience with the University of Alberta student administration system; strong ability to negotiate situations and develop strategies to meet the needs of multiple stakeholders in a large organization.

This is a 14-month temporary academic position. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. Please submit letters of application, including a résumé and the names and addresses of three references, to:

Dr. Marc C. Arnal
Dean
Faculté Saint-Jean
University of Alberta
8406 91 St.
Edmonton AB T6C 4G9
Competition deadline: December 8, 2004
www.fsj.ualberta.ca

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL OFFICER DIRECTOR, RESEARCH SERVICES OFFICE

As one of Canada's major post-secondary institutions, the University of Alberta is committed to pursuing the highest quality of research. It ranks among Canada's top four universities in attaining external research funding. In 2003/04, the university attracted nearly \$400 million from outside agencies. Over the past five years, annual research funding has more than doubled.

The University of Alberta invites applications for the position of director, Research Services Office. The administration of the university's research funding is managed through the Research Services Office (RSO), currently the largest business unit in the portfolio of the Vice-President (Research). The RSO is responsible for development and submission of all research grant applications to granting agencies as well as service agreements/contracts to sponsoring bodies, promotion of funding opportunities, co-ordination of submissions, notification of successful awards, account set-up, ongoing account management and financial reporting. The RSO includes both a central unit and a distributed component comprising research


facilitators and their support staff. The RSO has three core business units: Research Agreements (grants and contracts); Research and Trust Accounting (Finance); and, Institutional Programs (including Canada Foundation for Innovation, Canada Research Chairs, and Networks of Centres of Excellence programs). A Business Operations team supports these units.

Reporting to the senior associate vice-president (research), the director will be accountable for providing the overall framework and co-ordination for the effective and responsible administration of all research applications, agreements, contracts and awards according to university and sponsoring agencies' policies and procedures. This will include the provision of pre- and post-award administrative support to researchers in terms of information dissemination, and the co-ordination of policy and procedural development as necessary. Additional responsibilities include: 1) providing effective leadership and management of RSO staff, resources and budget; 2) ensuring that researchers have access to accurate funding opportunities information and are aware of ethical approval processes and other certification requirements; 3) ensuring that communication/training is available to research and trust account holders in order that they are sufficiently informed to manage and be in compliance with university and sponsoring agencies policies, guidelines and procedures; 4) ensuring that statistical information on all aspects of grant and contract administration is available to central administration, faculties and departments; 5) leading administration of sponsored research agreements, including grants, contracts and collaborative initiatives between the university and other institutions, industry, government departments and agencies; 6) representing the university in dialogue with granting agencies and sponsors on procedural and other matters; 7) providing oversight and supporting the reporting and resolution of the university's Conflict of Interest Policy as it relates to research conducted by university researchers; 8) advising and contributing to the setting of university policies and procedures on publication and patent rights, conflict of interest, intellectual property and other aspect of grant and contract management; 9) advising and contributing to the establishment of, or amendments to, research agreements between the university and partner institutions (Capital Health, Clinical Trials sponsors, Alberta Cancer Board, etc.).

This is a senior managerial position requiring a proven and experienced professional. Minimum qualifications and skills include:

- proven superior leadership, managerial, interpersonal and organizational abilities;
- a graduate or undergraduate degree, preferably in law and/or business, or a relevant combination of education and experience;
- advanced knowledge of the academic principles surrounding the responsible conduct of research and research integrity;
- experience in contractual law, intellectual property and risk management issues as they relate to the university setting is desirable;
- advanced knowledge of the research funding environment (federal, provincial and private sector);
- knowledge and experience in university policies and functions relative to research and research administration;
- excellent oral and written communication skills.

This is a full-time continuing Administrative Professional Officer position with an annual salary range of \$70,446 to \$111,536, commensurate with qualifications and experience, and a comprehensive benefits package. Documentation including



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a letter of introduction, curriculum vitae, and the names of three references (who will not be contacted without the consent of the applicant) should be submitted in confidence to:

Dr. Bill McBlain, Senior Associate Vice-President (Research)
c/o Susan Baker, Human Resources Coordinator
Research Services Office
222 Campus Tower, 8625 - 112 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E1
Telephone: 780-492-9292; FAX: 780-492-0949
Email: c/o Susan Baker:
susan.baker@ualberta.ca
For more information, please refer to:
• Research Services Office: www.rso.ualberta.ca
• Vice-President (Research): www.ualberta.ca/vpresearch/
All applicants are thanked in advance for their interest. Only those selected for interview will be contacted.

SESSIONAL POSITION
Augustana Faculty, University of Alberta, invites applications for a sessional teaching position in economics for the term January 1, 2005 - April 30, 2005.

This position involves responsibility for the teaching of Economics 322 (Industrial Organization). This course explores various patterns of internal organization in industries, focusing on the relations among the structure and conduct and performance of industries. Successful candidates will be expected to hold, or have nearly completed, a PhD and to have experience in university teaching at the undergraduate level.
Augustana Faculty is located in Camrose, Alberta, 90 km southeast of Edmonton. Augustana Faculty has recently incorporated into the University of Alberta. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.augustana.ca>.
Applications, including curriculum vitae, evidence of successful teaching, as well as three letters of reference, should be submitted as soon as possible to: Dr. Charles Beck, Acting Chair, Social Sciences, Augustana Faculty, University of Alberta, 4901 46 Avenue, Camrose, AB, T4V 2R3, Phone: (780) 679-1633, e-mail: cbeck@augustana.ca.

SESSIONAL POSITION
Augustana Faculty, University of Alberta, invites applications for a sessional teaching position in psychology for the term January 1, 2005 - April 30, 2005.

This position involves responsibility for the teaching of Psychology 213 (Statistical Methods for Psychological Research). This course explores the application of statistical methods to psychological problems; the description of psychological data in terms of averages, measures of variability, and measures of relationship; and the problems of sampling theory and tests of statistical hypotheses. Successful candidates will be expected to hold, or have nearly completed, a PhD and to have experience in university teaching at the undergraduate level.
Augustana Faculty is located in Camrose, Alberta, 90 km southeast of Edmonton. Augustana Faculty has recently incorporated into the University of Alberta. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.augustana.ca>. At Augustana, the Psychology Program is in the Department of Social Sciences.
Applications, including curriculum vitae, evidence of successful teaching, as well as three letters of reference, should be submitted as soon as possible to: Dr. Charles Beck, Acting Chair, Social Sciences, Augustana Faculty, University of Alberta, 4901 46 Avenue, Camrose, AB, T4V 2R3, Phone: (780) 679-1633, e-mail: cbeck@augustana.ca

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL OFFICER DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

The Department of Educational Psychology offers a challenging opportunity for a self-motivated individual. The Department of Educational Psychology is one of the largest such departments in Canada. The department takes pride in its ability to attract students locally, nationally, and internationally. Programs are offered in Psychological Studies in Education; Counselling Psychology; School Psychology; School Counselling; Special Education; Deafness Studies; Instructional Technology; Measurement, Evaluation, and Cognition; and TESL (Teaching English as a second language).

Reporting to the chair of the department, the administrative professional officer is accountable for developing and maintaining an effective administrative support system for the teaching and research programs of the department and for providing executive assistance to the chair and association chair. Specific accountabilities include financial planning and management, human resource administration and staff supervision, computer and information systems coordination, and space and facilities management.

Qualified applicants will preferably have a post-secondary degree, or equivalent, and several years of demonstrated management experience. Strong interpersonal and organizational skills, excellent written and oral communication abilities, and a strong commitment to service are essential. Applicants will have a strong technological orientation and proficiency with word processing, spreadsheets, databases, and other applications. A thorough understanding of academic, financial and human resource policies, procedures, and administrative information systems (PeopleSoft Financials, Human Resources, and Students Administration) at the University of Alberta is required.

This is a full-time continuing Administrative Professional Officer (APO) position. The salary range for this position is \$46,760 - \$74,032 per annum commensurate with education and experience. The start date is January 1, 2005.

Please submit applications including the names of at least three references to Dr Linda McDonald, Chair, Educational Psychology, 6-102 Education North, by November 30, 2004, although the competition may continue until a suitable candidate has been selected.

SESSIONAL POSITION

Augustana Faculty, University of Alberta, invites applications for a sessional teaching position in Management for the term January 1, 2005 - April 30, 2005.

This position involves responsibility for the teaching of MGT 330 3(3+0) (3 hr/wk lecture), Introduction to Marketing. The course description is: Introduction to the theory of marketing and its practice. The role of marketing within the business environment is discussed. Topics include the product design and management, national and international marketing strategies, consumer behaviour, product distribution and pricing, and market research. Successful candidates will be expected to hold, or have nearly completed, a PhD and to have experience in university teaching at the undergraduate level.

Augustana Faculty is a degree-granting arts and sciences university with approximately 1000 full- and part-time students. It is located in Camrose, Alberta, 90 km southeast of Edmonton. Augustana Faculty has recently incorporated into the University of Alberta as a faculty whose primary focus is high-quality undergraduate teaching in a collegial small-campus setting. Augustana Faculty encourages applications from individuals who will share that commitment to teaching. For more information, go to <http://www.augustana.ca>. At Augustana, the Management program is in the Department of Social Sciences.

Applications, including curriculum vitae, evidence of successful teaching, as well as three letters of reference, should be submitted as soon as possible to: Dr. Charles Beck, Acting Chair, Social Sciences, Augustana Faculty, University of Alberta, 4901 46 Avenue, Camrose, AB,

T4V 2R3, Phone: (780) 679-1633, e-mail: cbeck@augustana.ca

ASSOCIATE DEAN, RURAL AND REGIONAL HEALTH FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY

The University of Alberta invites applications for the position of associate dean for rural and regional health. The associate dean will develop and support formal and informal relationships between the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Alberta and rural and regional centres in the province. As well, relationships between the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and other health and non-health organizations will be developed where such collaborations will promote rural and regional health.

The associate dean will advise the dean on educational relationships with rural and regional centres; will chair the Rural Initiatives Committee; represent faculty to the Rural Physician Action Plan (RPAP); and will be a member of the Faculty Education Committee, advisory to the dean.

The associate dean will oversee the development of teaching sites for medical and dental students, residents, and practicing physicians and dentists in regional and rural centers; oversee the development of faculty development programs; work with program and course directors (university and regional) to develop evaluation systems for medical and dental students, residents and preceptors; foster continuing medical and dental education; and support distance learning development (e-learning, Telehealth, blended learning) for use in educational programs. As chair of the Rural Initiatives Committee, the associate dean will also be responsible for co-ordinating clinical rotations amongst medical and dental students and residents within the goals and priorities of the RPAP and the faculty. The associate dean will work with both medicine and dentistry admission committees to develop medical and dental student admissions programs that promote the return of graduates to practice in rural and regional areas, with special emphasis placed on aboriginal students and aboriginal health concerns.

The position reports to the dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry. The term is five years with re-appointment at the discretion of the dean. This position will be approximately half-time, involving travel, meetings and working with faculty on-site.

Interested candidates should submit an up-to-date curriculum vitae and a two-page document outlining their current clinical and research interests, their leadership experience and their thoughts on how to meet the challenges of academic leadership in an integrated health region. The names and addresses of three referees should be included. Interested individuals are asked to submit their material by December 31, 2004 to:

Dr. Tom Marrie
c/o Ms. Helen Kurkut
Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
University of Alberta
2J2 WC Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre
8440-112 St.
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
T6G 2R7
e-mail: hkurkut@ualberta.ca

SENIOR ASSOCIATE OR FULL PROFESSOR/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (PRL) DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

The Department of Sociology invites applications for a tenure track position at the senior associate or full professor level for the position of executive director of the department's Population Research Laboratory, commencing July 1, 2005. A PhD is required.

The Population Research Laboratory is the largest university-based survey and demographic research facility in Western Canada. The mission of the PRL is to facilitate the teaching, research and service goals of the Department of Sociology, the Faculty of Arts, and the larger university community. The PRL was established in 1966 and is a centre for social science research at the University of Alberta. Clients of the PRL have included academic researchers, government departments and agencies, regional health authorities, professional associations and non-profit organizations.

The executive director will be expected to develop an independent research program, actively



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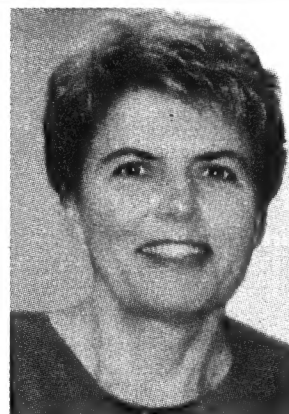
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*To express thanks to Dr Matthew Spence,
past President and CEO of AHFMR, for the tremendous support
and investment in health research at the University of Alberta*

Dr Roderick D Fraser, President, requests the pleasure of the company of faculty, staff, and graduate students to a reception from 3:00 to 5:00 pm Tuesday 30 November 2004 Maple Leaf Room, University of Alberta Conference Centre, Lister Centre 116th Street and 87th Avenue

Acceptances only please by 24 November:

Office of the President Phone: (780) 492-6534 Fax: (780) 492-9265

E-mail: presrsvp@ualberta.ca For questions: Jackie Miller at 492-1525

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seek research grants and contracts, co-ordinate faculty research efforts, develop a strategic vision and provide administrative leadership to the PRL. The successful candidate will have demonstrated success in obtaining grants, publishing in the social sciences and should exhibit a commitment to interdisciplinary research.

Applicants should submit a letter of intent, curriculum vitae, and arrange for three confidential letters of reference to be sent by December 15, 2004 to:

Dr. R. A. Sydie, Professor and Chair
Department of Sociology
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H4 Canada
Fax: (780) 492-7196

For additional information, the Sociology website is at www.arts.ualberta.ca/socweb/

TENURE TRACK FACULTY POSITIONS DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Applications are invited for tenure-track positions in the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of Alberta. The department offers two degrees: an entry-level MPT degree, and a thesis-based, MSc degree in physical therapy. The department also participates fully in an interdisciplinary PhD degree program in rehabilitation science.

Qualified candidates should hold a doctoral degree and have a proven record of scholarly activity in teaching and research. Candidates should have a well-defined research agenda. Evidence of successful grant applications will be advantageous. All areas of research related to physical therapy are of interest. Responsibilities will include teaching in both the entry-level and thesis-based programs, and maintaining an active research program.

Within the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, interdisciplinary research groups focus on common spinal disorders, movement disorders and rehabilitation, child development and aging. Many opportunities for research collaboration are also available on campus, such as the Alberta Centre on Aging, the University Centre for Neuroscience, the Institute of Health Economics, Alberta Heart Institute, the Alberta Provincial CIHR Training Program in Bone and Joint Health, the Centre for Health Promotion Studies, the Community University Partnership for the Study of Children Youth and Families, the Perinatal Research Centre and the Health Care Quality Outcomes Research Centre. Close working relationships exist with the Glenrose Rehabilitation

Hospital and other community-based programs in physical therapy. This provides a dynamic, rich environment for physical therapy education and research. Numerous members of the department are also actively engaged in international education, service and research programs.

Rank and salary will be commensurate with qualifications at the Assistant Professor or Associate Professor level. The positions are available immediately. Review of applications will commence on Jan. 15, 2005 and continue until the positions are filled. Interested applicants should send a curriculum vitae and a statement of teaching and research interests to:

Dr. Albert Cook, Dean
Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine
3-48 Corbett Hall
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2G4
Phone: 780-492-5991
Fax: 780-492-1626

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

The Department of Sociology invites applications for two tenure-track positions at the Assistant Professor level in the areas of Social Inequality/Social Policy and Classical Social Theory, commencing July 1, 2005. The benefits package is comprehensive. A PhD is required at the time of appointment, and applicants must demonstrate a strong record/outstanding potential for research, excellent communication and teaching skills, and leadership potential.

(1) Social Inequality/Social Policy: Preference will be given to applicants with teaching and research interests in poverty, social class, race/racism, and related areas of social inequality and who emphasize the social policy implications of their research.

(2) Classical Social Theory: Preference will be given to applicants with teaching and research interests in comparative historical sociology, social and political thought, and sociology of knowledge.

Applicants should submit a letter of intent, curriculum vitae, and arrange for three confidential letters of reference to be sent by Jan. 10, 2005 to:

Dr. R. A. Sydie, Professor and Chair
Department of Sociology
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H4 Canada
Fax: (780) 492-7196

For additional information, the Sociology website is at www.arts.ualberta.ca/socweb/

notices

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3M TEACHING FELLOWSHIP AND ALAN BLIZZARD AWARDS - 2005

The 3M Teaching Fellowships Award, which has a deadline of March 4, 2005, is a joint project of 3M Canada Inc. and the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE), initiated in 1986 by STLHE. Up to 10 awards are given annually. The University of Alberta has 24 3M Teaching Fellows, followed by the University of Western Ontario with 18 and the University of Guelph with 12. The 3M Teaching Fellowships represent Canada's only national award for university educators. Any individual teaching at a Canadian university (regardless of discipline or level of appointment) is eligible. An all expense paid three-day (November 5-7, 2005), retreat at the Fairmont Le Chateau Montebello is a main component of the award.

Nomination information is available at the following websites: www.stlhe.ca or www.mcmaster.ca/3Mteachingfellowships. Email enquiries should be directed to Arshad Ahmad <arshad@jmsb.concordia.ca> or by phone to (514) 848-2424 extension 2928 or 2793.

The Alan Blizzard Award, which has a deadline of January 28, 2005, was developed by the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE) to stimulate and reward collaboration in teaching, and to encourage and disseminate the scholarship of teaching. The award is given to collaborative projects that increase the effectiveness of student learning. Created on his retirement, the award honours Alan Blizzard for his significant contributions to university teaching and learning as president of STLHE from 1987 - 1995. The first award was given in 2000; teams from the University of Alberta received the award in 2000 and 2003.

The application form is available at www.mcmaster.ca/stlhe/awards/alan.blizzard.award.htm. Email enquiries should be directed to Aline Germain-Rutherford, <agermain@uottawa.ca> or by phone to (613) 564-2350.

You can also contact Bente Roed, University Teaching Services, 215 Central Academic Building, 492-2826 for information on both these awards.

EFF: MCCALLA PROFESSORSHIPS SMALL FACULTIES - APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications are invited from continuing faculty from the Faculties of Extension, Law, Nursing, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Physical Education and Recreation, Rehabilitation Medicine, Faculté Saint-Jean, School of Native Studies, Augustana Faculty and Interdisciplinary Research Units.

These prestigious awards provide full-time teaching relief for the period September - April to enable recipients to pursue a research project in Edmonton.

Application information is available from Deans' Offices. It is also available on the web site <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/provost/AwardsFunding.cfm>

Applications must be received by the Vice-Provost (2-10 University Hall) by December 1, 2004

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Announces a Call for Research Proposals
The Department of Sociology invites research proposals to carry out studies on impaired driving or other related social policy problems such as chronic alcoholism, traffic safety, etc.

Interest from an endowment made by REID (Research and Education on Impaired Driving) will be used to fund the successful research proposal(s). The maximum amount available this round is \$12,000, which may be used to fund one research project or divided between two (or more) smaller projects.

The competition is open to any University member conducting research relating to impaired driving or other related social policy problems such as chronic alcoholism, traffic safety, etc. It will be adjudicated by a panel of five members (three from the University and two from the contributing organization)

Proposals should be submitted to:

Dr R. Sydie, Chair
Department of Sociology
University of Alberta
5-21 HM Tory Building
Edmonton AB T6G 2H4

The competition will close on January 14, 2005. If you have any questions, please contact Fay Sylvester by e-mail: fay.sylvester@ualberta.ca

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THE TIMEKEEPER

Electrician's work goes on 24/7

By Richard Cairney



You're walking through a hallway on campus and look up at the hallway clock to make sure you're on time for class, and suddenly you're alarmed: either that clock is sadly mistaken about the time, or you've got a couple hundred first-year students sitting around in a lecture hall wondering where their prof is.

In a case like that, it's time to set up an appointment with Frank Hotar. The journeyman electrician has been in charge of repairing the university's clocks in addition to his regular duties as an electrician, working on the university's Remote Control and Monitoring System, an energy-saving system that helps regulate the climate in university buildings.

When there is time in his schedule, Hotar rounds up time-impaired clocks for repair at the university's electrical shop in the Phillips Service Building. There, Hotar tests, diagnoses and repairs an assortment of clocks, tardy, too eager or otherwise unable to give you the time of day.

What's fascinating about the clocks on campus is that they are all (with the

exception of clocks in the new engineering buildings) governed by a master clock in the General Services Building which tells them what time it is and when to switch to and from daylight savings time. So if a master clock runs the show, why are some clocks wrong?

"Because they get sick and die," Hotar jokes. "They're still receiving the signal but the parts wear out."

How many clocks are there on campus? "A few thousand, I guess," replies Hotar, who has worked at the U of A for nearly 24 years. "I've never really counted them." But he does know there are 172 clocks in the Education South building and another 110 in Education North. "And you have a lot of them in the BioSciences building, and in Clinical Sciences and Medical Sciences. This is a school - there are clocks everywhere!"

Electrician Frank Hotar (below) is in charge of repairing thousands of clocks on campus. In an institution so driven by schedules, it's no small matter. When he isn't working on electrical systems that help control building climates, he's testing timepieces using a mock 'master' clock, (above) to simulate real-life operating conditions for clocks. At bottom left, a Garfield clock, a gift from his colleagues, adorns Hotar's work space.



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